

Drainage

Moving into our Transportation department, one of our top priorities continues to be drainage. We have already completed some drainage work throughout the Village, but one of the things we have recognized is that we need to look at drainage from a Village-wide perspective.

A comprehensive drainage plan for the Village has already begun, and this will help us better understand how our entire drainage system works together, where improvements are needed and how we should prioritize the work moving forward.

We understand that residents notice drainage issues when they affect their own property, and it is completely understandable that when someone is experiencing a problem, they want to see a solution as quickly as possible.

However, drainage is not always as simple as fixing the problem directly in front of one property.

Our Public Works staff are out there dealing with the drainage system every day. They see how water moves through the Village, where it collects, where it needs to go and how changes in one location can affect another area or property.

A quick fix in one location can sometimes simply move the problem somewhere else.

If we are going to develop a proper drainage plan, we need to do it properly and make sure the system works together as a whole. We don't want to solve one problem only to create one down the road.

As with everything we are discussing tonight, we recognize the needs are there. But financial planning, and available resources all play a role in how much can realistically be completed in any one year.

We have many competing priorities, and we have to balance immediate needs with long-term planning.

One area identified through our Asset Management plan is Lakeview, and planning the work there has already begun. We anticipate that work will be completed this year and will begin in the coming weeks.

The larger Village-wide drainage plan will be developed and implemented in phases, which will allow us to prioritize the most important areas while also considering what the Village can financially manage each year.

Another change we are incorporating into our approach to drainage is that, where drainage work is being planned, property surveys will be completed. This will help us clearly establish property lines and ensure that we are making the best use of Village-owned property and available drainage corridors where they are required.

Our goal is to move away from continually reacting to individual drainage complaints and toward having a comprehensive, phased plan for the entire Village that we can budget for and work through over time.